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## STATE OF KANSAS

### Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

#### Testimony on Senate Bill 64

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 64. This bill deals with changes in party affiliation. It has two provisions:

1. Senate Bill 64 moves the deadline for party affiliation changes before any election from the 14<sup>th</sup> day to the 21<sup>st</sup> day before the election. This is a cleanup provision needed to resolve a discrepancy that results from an amendment passed in 2011. In 2011, K.S.A. 25-2311 was amended to move the voter registration deadline from the 15<sup>th</sup> day to the 21<sup>st</sup> day before each election. The corresponding party affiliation statute, K.S.A. 25-3304, was not included in the amendment. Senate Bill 64 resolves that discrepancy.

2. Senate Bill 64 prohibits registered voters from changing their party affiliations more than once in any 90-day period. This provision is intended to reduce the administrative burden on county election officers who must account for each party affiliation change in the statewide voter registration database and maintain records of the transactions. Party switches have become increasingly common during the busy period leading up to elections, which is the period when election officers can least afford to devote the time and resources to keep voters' records updated.

We urge the committee to recommend Senate Bill 64 favorably for passage in order to reduce the administrative burden on county election officers.

Thank you for your consideration.